

FOETUS POPYRACEUS

(A Case Report)

by

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Foetus popyraceus also known as foetus compressus is rare and interesting condition. This occurs both in mono-chorionic and dischorionic twin pregnancy ending in one normal foetus and continuous growth of the remaining foetus on retention of the dead alive and is mechanically pressed by the living foetus it forms a "Foetus Popyraceus" following is the report of one such case.

Case Report

A 20 years old second gravida was admitted to Karnataka Medical College Hospital, Hubli on 2-3-1980 as an emergency. Her presenting features were amenorrhoea for 6½ months and mass per vagina for 12 hours. She had only 1 antenatal check up at P.H.C.

On examination she was moderately built and nourished. Pulses 90/m reg. B.P. 130/80 mm of Hg. Her cardio-vascular and respiratory systems were normal. Mild pedal oedema was present.

On abdominal examination, foetus was presenting in oblique lie, foetal heart sound was 120/mm reg. On vaginal examination, there was a mass. This was nothing but, foetus popyraceus. The umbilical cord was cut and foetus was removed. On vaginal examination cervix was 6 cm dilated and membranes were present. Pelvis was found normal at 12-30 P.M. Patient ruptured her membranes spontaneously and the second foetus was in oblique lie. Under general anaesthesia internal podalic version was done and still born male foetus was extracted. Pla-

centa was removed manually uterus was explored.

There was no post partum haemorrhage. Patient was discharged on 6th day of admission.

Description of the compressed foetus

The mummified foetus appeared as an amorphous mass. wt. was 200 gms. The extremities was proportionately developed. The crown rump length was 5".

Both foetuses were male. There were two separate placentae with two cords and two chorionic membranes.

Discussion

According to Eastman acquired coagulation defect could be triggered by the death of one foetus. Death of one foetus is followed by evidence of consumptive coagulopathy in the survival. The diagnosis of foetus popyraceus is made most of the time after birth since it is difficult to find out in antenatal clinics. X-Ray is also not very helpful in such cases.

Eastman considers foetus popyraceus is same as mummification but Novak believes in etiological factor is original failure of the parts to form and from secondary atrophy. Browne considers vascular anastomosis as the etiological factor in the formation of popyraceus.

The formation of foetus popyraceus

may be followed by obstructed labour, infection and puerperal haemorrhage.

The uneventful course of pregnancy is the rule other than exception says "David".

Federick Roos had an interesting case in that it presented with the unusual condition of foetus compressus in a triplet pregnancy with the other foetus live born but congenitally abnormal, this live born infant being fraternal triplets and probably the second live born identical with the foetus compressus.

Summary

A case of twin pregnancy with the formation of one foetus papyraceus is reported.

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See Fig. on Art Paper IV.